NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Photography and Architecture

Credit Points: 5 (2.5 ECTS)

Duration: 5 days

This course is for people who are new to architecture in relation to photography but are competent when using a digital SLR camera in manual mode. You should have the require English language skills.

Overview and aims

This course will teach you the necessary skills to capture the identity of a place. You will explore urban spaces old and new, inside and out, as well as green spaces where architecture and nature meet. You will investigate how people interact with the urban environment and how to capture a moment in time.

Architecture in photography is something many people can relate to, which makes it an accessible form of photographic practice. But being able to capture a unique image is a real skill and which sets professional photographers aside from others.

This practical course will appeal to anyone interested in the urban environment and how the aesthetic qualities of buildings can be captured in a photograph. Nottingham has a wealth of contemporary and historic buildings that will be explored through the lens of your camera.

You will approach architecture and photography from both a fine art and reportage perspective to give your work a breadth of content that will appeal to different audiences. On this course you will:

- improve your understanding of digital photography and the manual settings of your camera;
- discuss the work of professional photographers and how they may inform the direction your work takes;
- experience working in a variety of urban locations, capturing the external and internal qualities of historic and contemporary buildings;
- experiment with abstract shapes, colours and textures;
- use Photoshop to enhance and manipulate your images;
- develop a personal style to your photography; and
- create inspiring architectural images that have both an aesthetic and potential commercial quality.

By the end of the course you will have a portfolio of unique architectural images, the knowledge and experience of how to plan a shoot on location, and ideas about how to continue your photography in the future.

Indicative reading

The following may be useful to refer to:

Barrett, T. (2011), Fifth Edition, Criticizing Photographs, McGraw Hill, New York

Bull, S. (2009) Photography, Routledge, Oxford

Campany, D. (2004) Art and Photography: Themes and Movements Phaidon, London

Cotton C., (2009) The Photograph as Contemporary Art Thames and Hudson, London

Elwall, R (2004). Building with Light: The International History of Architectural Photography, Merrell Publishers Ltd, 2004

Web links:

http://www.1000wordsmag.com/

https://www.lensculture.com/

http://www.bjp-online.com/

Digital reading:

Adobe Photoshop CC for Photographers: A professional image editor's guide to the creative use of Photoshop by Martin Evening

The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5 Book for Digital Photographers (Voices That Matter) by Scott Kelby

Skin: The Complete Guide to Digitally Lighting, Photographing, and Retouching Faces and Bodies by Rick Sammon and Lee Varis

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- communicate an awareness of social, cultural and aesthetic issues related to the depiction of architecture in photography;
- evaluate your own work and that of others;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary architectural photography through your practice;
- create architectural photographs that explore ideas through methods and practices of photographic image making; and
- demonstrate the appropriate selection, control and understanding of technical and practical skills in architectural photographic production.

Teaching and learning

This course will be taught via:

- Lectures and project briefings
- Studio workshops
- Verbal and visual presentations
- Visits to places of architectural interest

Total contact hours: 25

In addition to the contact hours you should expect so spend no more than five hours before and during the course on preparation and reading.

Assessment methods

100% coursework. This will be a visual presentation of your project work.

Final assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

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